

A Souvenir from the Crimea

by Dr Douglas J Austin 24 [TWC 28(1) p15 2010]

I have acquired a small brass triptych - obviously a well-worn item of personal devotion. Allegedly, it was 'brought back from a Crimean battlefield', perhaps the Alma or Inkerman. I shall attempt to track its UK source in an effort to discover more. While attractive, it can never have been a costly item. When open, the object measures 3.5" wide by 2" tall. Equipped with two linked copper rings, it may have been worn as a pendant under a soldier's shirt (if he was lucky enough to have one).



The iconography and abbreviated Russian script identifies the subject as St Nicholas the Wonderworker, one of the origins of Santa Claus (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas), who remains very popular in the Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

The Russian owner of this touching item may indeed have been called 'Nikolai'. Rest in Peace.